Upgradation of small airports

1498. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to upgrade the smaller airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure/cost involved in this project, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Upgradation of airports is a continuous process depending upon the traffic potential, demands from airlines operators, commercial viability etc. Airports Authority of India (AAI), from time to time, takes initiative in this regard, keeping in view the above factors, either with its own resources or with the participation of the concerned State Governments through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with them. However, AAI has undertaken initiatives for upgradation works at Mysore in Karnataka, Warangal and Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh; Passighat, Tezu, along, Daparizo and Zero in Arunachal Pradesh; Kailshahar and Kamalpur in Tripura; Tura in Meghalaya; Akola, Baramati and Gondia in Maharashtra; Surat in Gujarat; Jharsuguda in Orissa; Malda and Behala in West Bengal.

Launching of new regional airlines

1499. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to start new regional airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms laid down for the operation of the same;

(c) whether all non-metro cities would have easier connectivity with all parts of the country most particularly smaller and big towns;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the new regional airlines are expected to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for scheduled regional air transport service.

The concept of regional airline has been introduced with a view to promote air connectivity within a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and III cities and between specific regions. There are four regions identified as North, South, West, East/North-East coinciding with the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) as defined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The regional airlines are not permitted to operate on category-I routes. However, the regional airlines of the southern region which has 3 metros would be allowed to operate between the metros within the southern region namely Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad.

The airline can operate with minimum of 3 aircrafts and the equity requirements are as under:—

(0 Airlines operating with aircraft with take off mass equal to or exceeding 40,000kg.

(1) upto 3 aircraft—Rs 30 crores.

(2) for each additional aircraft, additional equity investment of Rs. 10 crores will be required, subject to a miximum of Rs. 50 crores after which no further equity enhancement is required.